AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling usage of resources in a computer network, comprising:

receiving a job request from a client in the network;

selecting a customized user interface, wherein the user interface is based on preferences of the client; and

returning all or part of an application program to the client, the application program used for controlling a resource, the application program based on the user preferences and capabilities of the resources in the network, wherein the customized user interface provides user access to the application program.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the resources are printers, and wherein the application program is a printer driver.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the user interface is an interface to a printer driver.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

determining if the client is a new client; and

sending a default user interface to the new client.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the job request is received at an Internet web site.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the job request is received at a node in a local area network.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

sending the customized user interface to the client;

receiving a modification to the client preferences; and

sending a modified user interface to the client, wherein the modified user interface is based on the modification to the client preferences.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

recording selected client preferences; and

determining a set of usage metrics based on the recorded client preferences.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling printing functions in a distributed computer network, the network comprising a plurality of clients and one or more print devices, comprising:

receiving a print request from a client;

determining if the client is a new client;

sending a user interface to the client, wherein if the client is a new client, the user interface is a default user interface, and wherein if the client is not a new client, the user interface is a customized user interface;

receiving changes to the user interface; and

returning the changed user interface to the client.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the customized user interface is based on preferences of the client.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising recording the client

preferences as usage metrics.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, further comprising selecting a printer to complete the print request.

21. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable program storage device, tangibly embodying a program of instruction executable by a computer to perform method steps in a computer network for providing an extensible use interface, the method steps, comprising:

receiving a job request from a client in the network;

selecting a customized user interface, wherein the user interface is based on preferences of the client; and

returning all or part of an application program to the client, the application program used for controlling a resource, the application program based on the user preferences and capabilities of the resources in the network, wherein the customized user interface provides user access to the application program.

22. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable program storage device of claim 21, wherein the method steps further comprise:

determining if the client is a new client; and

sending a default user interface to the new client.

23. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable program storage device of claim 21, wherein the method steps further comprise:

sending the customized user interface to the client;

receiving a modification to the client preferences; and

sending a modified user interface to the client, wherein the modified user interface is based on the modification to the client preferences.

24. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable storage device of claim 21, wherein the

method steps further comprise:

recording selected client preferences; and

determining a set of usage metrics based on the recorded client preferences.

25-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A network-based user interface system, comprising:

an extensible resource interface located at a first network node and adapted for coupling to a plurality of client devices each located at one of a plurality of second network nodes different from the first network node, the extensible resource interface including

a register configured to collect resource information from one or more resources located at other than the first network node;

an options module configured to provide resource options based on the resource information;

a user profiler configured to construct profiles for at least some of the client devices, each profile indicative of client-specific resource options; and

a user interface builder configured to construct from the resource options and a particular one of the profiles a customized user interface for display by the corresponding one of the client devices and further configured to provide the customized user interface to the corresponding one of the client devices over the network, the customized user interface indicative of the corresponding client-specific resource options.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the customized user interface is provided to the corresponding one of the client devices.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the customized user interface is retained by the user interface system.

34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the first network node is a

node in a local area network.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the first network node is an Internet web site.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the customized user interface comprises a user interface to a printer driver.

37. (Previously presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the customized user interface comprises a hierarchical menu of printer option screens, wherein one or more of the printer option screens is provided dynamically based on user preferences, printer capabilities, and user print option selection.

38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the user profiler is further configured to record the client-specific resource options preferred by individual ones of the client devices.

39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the user profiler is further configured to record the preferred client-specific resource options as usage metrics.

40. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the customized user interface is pre-built.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the customized user interface is built when the corresponding one of the client device registers with the user interface system.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the customized user interface is rebuilt when the corresponding one of the client device changes preferences.

43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the one or more resources is a plurality of resources.

44. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the resources are printers.

45. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein each profile includes at least one of a printer type, a print language, a print media size, or a print media layout.

46. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein a particular one of the client devices and a particular one of the resources are located at a same network node, wherein the user interface builder provides at least part of an application program associated with the particular resource to the particular client device, wherein the application program is configured to control the particular resource, and wherein the customized user interface is configured to access the application program.

47. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the extensible resource interface further includes a logger configured to capture usage data of the resources by the client computers.

48. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein each of the client devices is a device selected from the group consisting of a computer, a computer system, a file server, or a handheld computing device

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the other network node is a third network node different from the first network node and the plurality of second network nodes.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the other network node is

one of the plurality of second network nodes.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the resource options are indicative of operational features of the resources.

52. (Currently amended) A network-based user interface system, comprising:

an extensible resource interface located at a first network node and adapted for coupling to a plurality of client devices each located at one of a plurality of second network nodes different from the first network node, the extensible resource interface including

means for collecting resource information from one or more resources located at other than the first network node; and

means for providing over the network from the extensible resource interface to a particular one of the client devices a customized user interface for a particular one of the resources, the customized user interface based on the resource information and on user preferences associated with the particular one of the client devices, the customized user interface further displayable by the particular one of the client devices.

53. (Previously presented) The system of claim 52, comprising:
means for recording usage metrics indicative of the user preferences.